

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 USIA-06 EB-08 AGRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02
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DRAFTED BY AF/C:REGTRIBBIN:LA
APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ
AF/C:LWALKER
AA/AFR:HNORTH
AA/AFR: GTBUTCHER (SUBS)
-----035184 270310Z /64
R 261729Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MFA MUGANGA TO WASHINGTON

1. FOLLOWING HIS ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON OCTOBER 12, FOREIGN MINISTER ALBERT MUGANGA TOOK A BRIEF CU-SPONSORED TOUR TO SAN FRANCISCO AND TUCSON. HE VISITED AN OPEN PIT COPPER MINE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. THE FOREIGN MINISTER STOPPED IN WASHINGTON ON OCTOBER 19 TO CALL ON OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND AID.

2. MUGANGA PAID A BRIEF COURTESY CALL ON THE COUNSELOR, MR. NIMETZ. IN A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS MUGANGA OBSERVED THAT AFRICA IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN A TRANSITORY PERIOD OF TENSION WHICH HE BELIEVES WILL BE
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REDUCED BY NEGOTIATION. HE CONFIRMED BURUNDI'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AMERICAN POLICY IN THIS AREA. HE REQUESTED GREATER AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR BURUNDI'S AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND SAID THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE IN GOOD SHAPE. (COMPLETE MEMCON POUCHED.).

3. MUGANGA MET WITH MS. BUTCHER AND MR. HAVEN NORTH OF AID/AFR. MUGANGA RELATED THE CURRENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY OF THE BAGAZA REGIME, AFFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO HEAL ETHNIC WOUNDS AND TO PROVIDE SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL BURUNDIANS. HE SPECIFICALLY ALLUDED TO AGRICULTURAL AND LAND REFORMS AS EVIDENCE OF NEW DIRECTIONS. STATING THAT RESOURCES WERE NEEDED TO ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED FOR GREATER US DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND UNDERSTANDING OF BURUNDIAN SITUATION. HE SAID THAT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PAST EVENTS, BUT SHOULD BE JUDGED ON ITS EFFORTS AND POLICIES SINCE NOVEMBER OF 76. NORTH OBSERVED THAT BURUNDIAN POLICIES WERE DESIRABLE IN TERMS OF AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. HE NOTED THAT AID OPERATED IN A PUBLIC, MULTI-INTEREST ENVIRONMENT. IT WAS THEREFORE IMPORTANT FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN A GOOD IMAGE IN ORDER TO GAIN PUBLIC, CONGRESSIONAL AND AID SUPPORT. HE ENCOURAGED THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR TO CONTINUE TO WORK TO IMPROVE BURUNDI'S IMAGE.

4. NORTH ADDED THAT AID IS IN PROCESS OF EXPANDING PROGRAMS IN BURUNDI, AND THIS ESSENTIALLY QUESTION OF WORKING OUT SUITABLE PROJECTS. HE COMMENTED THAT PROCESS ALWAYS SLOWER THAN DESIRABLE. MUGANGA CONFIRMED THAT BURUNDI'S DEVELOPMENT POLICY WAS TO CONCENTRATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESOURCES IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND THAT FOOD PRODUCTION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THIS POLICY. HE EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO MS. BUTCHER TO VISIT BURUNDI. SHE INDICATED THAT SHE WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO DO SO AS SOON AS HER SCHEDULE PERMITTED.

5. DEPUTY SECRETARY HARROP, AF/C DIRECTOR WALKER AND DESK OFFICER ATTENDED A SMALL LUNCHEON HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR NZEYIMANA FOR MUGANGA. LUNCHEON WAS PLEASANT SOCIAL OCCASION AND ALL WERE IMPRESSED BY THE SOPHISTICATION AND POLISH OF BURUNDIANS. VANCE

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